

10/797,456
September 13th, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 06/16/2005

Via Facsimile

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the June 16th, 2005 Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections of claims 1-20 in light of the following remarks:

Rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 112 and §102(b) by Quirk 4,091,139
(numbers correspond to paragraph numbering in the examiner's rejection)

- 2.a. In regards to the examiner's questions on C-black: C-black (carbon black) is indeed a filler used to make conductive resins. In the art, when C-black is added to a resin, the resulting conductive resin is *also* called C-black. Applicant apologizes for the confusion and believes that this explanation clarifies the matter.
- 2.b. "Semiconductive property" is measured in ohms per square. It is a standard physical value and is not unclear.
- 2.c. Applicant traverses the assertion that one of ordinary skill in the art would not know how to make a resin impregnated mica sheet with the tensile modulus described. The descriptions of the mica used, the lapping, optional glass backing, resin impregnation and more will certainly allow one of ordinary skill in the art to make a sheet of the described tensile modulus. Applicant admits in ¶ 17 that mica sheets have been known, just not with the semi-conducting properties and other advantages of the present invention.
3. In regards to "sheet wedge," applicant traverses the examiner's definition of wedge. It is clear from the specification that applicant is using the term wedge to describe and actual use rather than a classic triangular or trapezoidal shape (although applicant's sheet wedge may have a tapered leading edge, as described). Sheet wedge, therefore, refers to a wedge that is in the shape of sheet. These are not mutually exclusive. Further, applicant is entitled, and even encouraged, to be his own

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lexicographer, therefore, sheet wedge is entirely appropriate to describe the invention at hand.

"Thin" is also objected to. While "thin" is relative, in light of the specification, applicant does not believe that thin is unclear. Taking the dictionary term:

small in extent from one surface to the opposite, usually in the smallest solid dimension

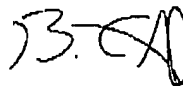
Therefore one of the physical dimensions of the sheet wedge (ie thickness) is smaller than the other two (ie length and width). If the examiner is not satisfied with this explanation, Applicant is willing to remove the limitation.

5. The Examiner has apparently combined a §102(b) rejection with a §112. The examiner took issue with elements of the claim under §112, then proceed with a §102(b) as though those elements of the claims were no longer present. Applicant believes therefore that the responses to the §112 rejections sufficiently distinguishes the present invention from Quirk. Applicant's invention is a sheet wedge and not a tape. One would not take a flexible insulating tape and call it a stiff semi-conductive wedge.

In view of the above remarks and term clarifications, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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by



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